

A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS BELONGING TO THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

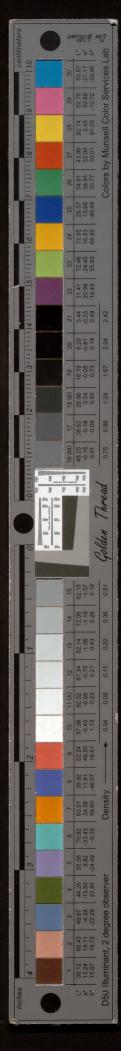
A Facsimile of the
Edition of 1741 Printed
by BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,
With an Introduction
by EDWIN WOLF 2ND

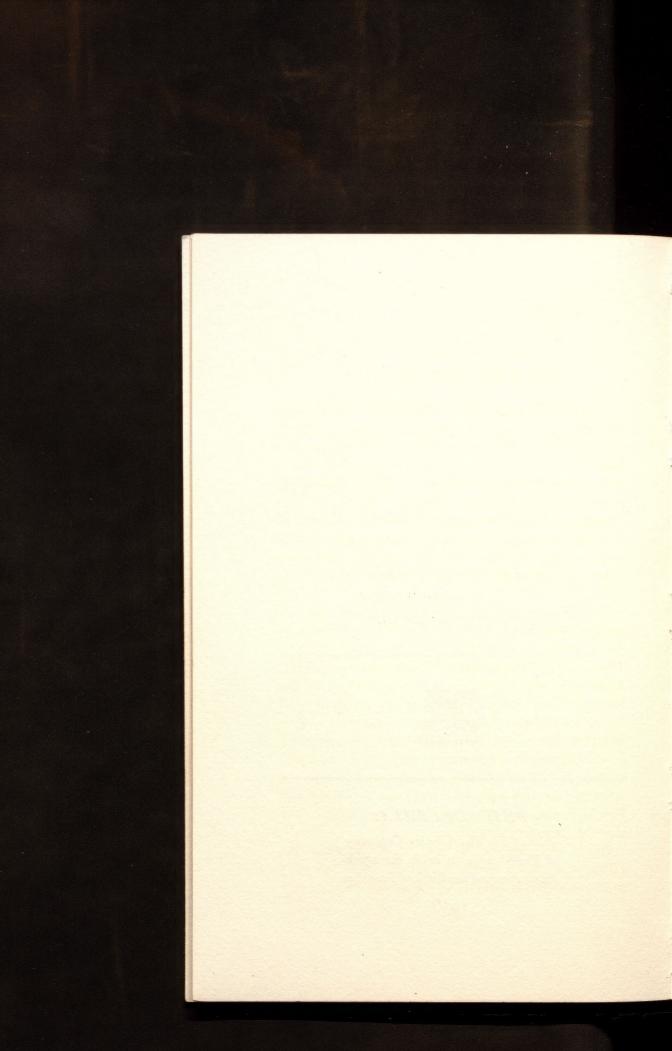


PHILADELPHIA:

Printed for The Library Company of Philadelphia to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Franklin

1956





INTRODUCTION

"I am but a poor ordinary Mechanick of this city, obliged to work hard for the maintenance of myself, my wife, and several small children. When my daily labour is over, instead of going to the Alehouse, I amuse myself with the Books of the Library Company, of which I am an unworthy Member." This statement, which appeared in one of a series of anonymous letters in Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* in the spring of 1740, reflected admirably the character and use of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The chances are that Franklin himself was the author of the letter, for in his Autobiography he says much the same thing about himself and the Library. The Company was an unique organization in colonial America at the time of its founding in 1731, unique because it was brought into being by a group of small merchants, tradesmen and artisans struggling to gain wealth and position. Benjamin Franklin, pragmatical and intellectually curious, was their leader and prototype. No other evidence reveals more clearly the cultural interests and, in a way, the aspirations of Franklin and his associates than the books they ordered for their common use.

Other libraries, to be sure, had preceded the Library Company on the American scene, but they were of a different nature. Three college collections—

Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale—had already been established before the Company came into being. However, these were academic institutions, and their books, largely the gifts of interested individuals in England and the colonies, were strongly theological in content, reflecting the prime purpose of the colleges, the education of young men for the ministry. The selection was essentially of works which the colleges or the donors expected the professors and students to use. By and large, the choice was superimposed from without for educational purposes. In this respect, the selection of books by members of the Library Company differed; the desire for the book stemmed from the reader.

Private libraries, of which there were probably more than has been generally supposed, reflected varying tastes. Yet, these collections were, of course, the result of the tastes of an individual rather than a group, and were representative of the highest level of colonial culture, where the company was few. The books in these private hands ranged from an overwhelming predominance of theological writings, such as were owned by the Winthrops, the Mathers, and Thomas Prince of Boston, to a cultivated gentleman's choice, as typified by William Byrd of Westover, or as refined and intellectualized by James Logan of Philadelphia.

A few public libraries had been founded in various places by individual benefactors and, on a broader scale, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, but by 1731 these collections had been destroyed, dispersed or lay dormant.

At best they had been a few bookcases of theological works, and their cultural impact on the communities in which they had been set up had not been great.

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It remained for Franklin and his friends to hit upon a scheme which would meet the needs of the ambitious man whose purse was limited and who had not enjoyed a formal education. The subscription library, in which the shareholders pooled their resources to secure the greatest number of books for their common use, proved to be the answer. The members benefited not only through borrowing privileges but through a choice of books attuned to their wants. So successful did the Company prove that other localities established similar institutions, and by the time of the Revolution there were many library companies and societies scattered throughout the colonies. It was Franklin's opinion that "these libraries have improved the general conversation of the Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defence of their privileges."

Certain it was that as the Library Company of Philadelphia grew, chiefly by purchase, partly by gift, it became the library of Philadelphia, a significant and permanent part of the city's intellectual resources. In a broad sense it was a "public" library, for while circulation was restricted to members, others were able to use books in the library. Franklin referred to the Company as "the Philadelphia public library," and others testified to its predominance

by calling it the "Philadelphia Library" or the "City Library."

The earliest surviving printed record of the books in the collection is the fifty-three page, octavo catalogue of 1741, which lists by size and in no other order three hundred and seventy-five titles. That these titles represented a popular, democratic choice is apparent from the Minutes of the Company, which contain such entries as those of July 15, 1734, "a list of Books was drawn out and made choice of, from Lists brought by several of the Committee," and of April 10, 1738, when it was ordered "that an Advertisement be put up in the Library Room to acquaint the Subscribers that the Directors would be willingly assisted in the Choice of the next Parcel of Books which they are to send for." The standard procedure for getting books was for such a list to be sent off to Peter Collinson, the scientist friend of Bartram and Franklin, who had agreed to act as the Company's unpaid London agent. Sometimes a few of the books asked for could not be found in the bookstores or were too expensive; sometimes Collinson or a member of the Company who happened to be abroad made additional suggestions. By and large, however, the collection consisted of specific orders which originated from the group in Philadelphia, augmented by gifts from members and friends.

In selecting the titles for the first order, the Directors asked the advice of the erudite James Logan, the owner of the best chosen private library in America. There is no doubt that his experience and book knowledge were factors in the Company's

selection. It may be, as Miss Dorothy F. Grimm has pointed out in an unpublished history of the Library Company, that later reliance was placed on a list of books included by John Clarke at the end of his *Essay upon Study*, 1731, a copy of which was acquired by the library as early as 1735. Suggestions by other writers, including John Locke, may also have been used, but the ultimate selection was that decided by the Directors.

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One basis of their selection becomes apparent from a comparison of the Library Company list with those of other libraries of the period, including its succeeding sister subscription libraries throughout the country. A great many of the works were evidently recognized as standard texts. A high proportion of them were to be found in Logan's library, on the shelves at Harvard and Yale, and to an even greater degree in such a later, similar institution as the New York Society Library. The collection of the Library Company differed from those of other libraries not so much in individual titles, as in the predominance of certain fields of learning to the virtual exclusion of others.

The three hundred and seventy-five titles listed in the 1741 catalogue can be roughly divided into subjects as follows: History 114, Literature 69, Science 65, Theology 38, Philosophy 33, Social Sciences 28, Arts 13, Linguistics 10, and General 5. It is of more than passing interest that of the three hundred and seventy-five entries eighty-four were gifts, which, subtracted from the main classes, would leave as works actually ordered: History 91, Litera-

ture 55, Science 51, Philosophy 28, Theology 25, and Social Sciences 21.

Several distinctive features of the Company's selection, as thus revealed, are noteworthy. First, it is obvious that the members ordered theology with an extremely light hand. In comparison, the 1723 catalogue of Harvard College Library with its supplements to 1735 shows that approximately two-thirds of its books were theological. Yale's collection as of 1743 was not quite so heavy; theology constituted about half. And as Louis B. Wright has noted, we sometimes forget the taste of Virginians for religious literature as we concentrate upon the appetite of the New England Puritans for such fare. Wright found a heavy weighting of theology and law in the seventeenth and early eighteenth century Virginia libraries in private hands.

To avoid theology then was distinctly unusual, but so was the purposeful avoidance of books in foreign languages. The Library Company owned only thirteen such, of which ten were gifts. The only foreign titles it ordered were Grotius' De Jure Belli in Latin, Don Quixote in Spanish, and Pascal's Lettres Provinciales in French, and in each case it also possessed an English translation. Again in comparison, approximately one-half of the books in Harvard's library were in foreign languages, chiefly Latin, the scholar's lingua franca, and in erudite James Logan's personal collection the percentage was even higher. Most of the Library Company's members had little Latin and less Greek, and apparently had no consuming desire to do much about it.

The shunning of the ancients and the emphasis on English were purposeful, for Franklin, complaining in 1789 about the priority given to the classics at the Academy of Philadelphia contrary to the plans of its original founders, stated, "As in the Scheme of the Library I had provided only for English Books, so in this new Scheme my Ideas went no farther than to procure the means of a Good English Education." The tradesmen of Philadelphia, and elsewhere as evidenced by other subscription libraries, did not look upon Latin and Greek as necessary steps up the social ladder.

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If they were not seeking to become "cultured gentlemen" in the contemporary sense, they did want information on a vast number of subjects. History, according to the count, was their primary interest, and English history the largest sub-section, but the countries covered ranged from Denmark to Turkey and from Russia to Morocco, as well as remote regions described in collections of voyages and travels which spanned the world. Broad as their scope was, there was, intriguingly enough, a definite slant to their interest. The English histories were written from the Whig point-of-view, and a large number of the others-particularly the works of the Abbé Vertot, five of whose popular histories were in the collection—dealt with revolution and the subversion of established monarchies. This type of book, and in fact the same titles, seem to have been in most American libraries, public and private, indicating that the background for revolution existed in the histories most esteemed by the colonials.

In the field of literature, the choice was based largely on contemporary popularity. The giants of England—Chaucer and Shakespeare—were notably lacking, but that too was a reflection of the taste of the times, for the old poets had not yet become the critics' delight and the schoolboys' terror. The list of belle-lettristic works the Company bought reads like—and in fact is—a rollcall of yesteryear's best sellers. Louis B. Wright also noted this fact, and observed succinctly, "In general, the most commonly found literary works were not books by the greatest authors."

It was the Augustans, then gleaming untarnished, who caught the fancy of the Philadelphians. The shelf of long, dull poems, now forgotten, was relieved by the works of Dryden, Pope and a few others of more lasting fame. But, judging from signs of use, the most popular of all literary works were the periodical essays, the *Spectator*, *Tatler*, and *Guardian*, the best expression of Whig, middle-class thinking, clearly presented and full of common-sense. Franklin said that he painstakingly modelled his own literary style on that of the *Spectator*.

If the Library Company was unusual because of the low percentage of theological books on its shelves, it was equally so because of the comparatively high proportion of scientific ones. The collection was formed at the very time when the flowering of the age of scientific inquiry, initiated by Descartes, had reached so advanced a stage in England that for the first time a scientist—Newton—was being widely hailed as one of the British immortals. And the mem-

bers of the Company were from the beginning ardent Newtonians. Like Franklin they were serious "natural philosophers" of the experimental school. So, with a sound selection of books in the pure and applied sciences and, as time went on, scientific equipment as well, the Library Company became in fact the first scientific society in Philadelphia. It is frequently forgotten that, when Franklin in 1747 wrote Collinson his first letter on electricity, the "several of us" referred to as having participated in the experiments were later identified by him as "of the Library Company."

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If they were basically Newtonian in natural philosophy, the members were equally Lockian in speculative philosophy. The only editorial comment in the whole printed catalogue of 1741 follows the entry of Locke's Essay upon Human Understanding—"Esteemed the best Book of Logick in the World." Except for Pope and Abbé Vertot, Locke was represented by more titles in the library than any other author, and his important successors, Shaftesbury and Hutcheson, also found favor with the Philadelphians. The city, greatly influenced by the utopian dreams of its founder, the Quaker Penn, and dominated morally by the tolerant, humanitarian principles of his fellow-Quakers, received comforting support from the liberal doctrines of Locke and his followers.

These were the general characteristics of the collection which the members of the Library Company gathered for their own use in the first ten years of their co-operative venture. While the number of books grew from 375 titles in 1741 to 2,033 in 1770,

the general character of the collection remained as it had been. An interest in history remained predominant, but more and more pamphlets on the contemporary American scene were purchased as they came out, reflecting the members' rise in status from onlookers to participants in the government of the province. In literature the policy of buying the most popular current books continued, and Fielding, Richardson, Smollett, Gray, and Johnson made their due appearance in the library. However, as strictly scientific institutions, like the Pennsylvania Hospital and the American Philosophical Society, began to function and form their own libraries, the need for scientific books became less, and the high proportion of them was not maintained. Yet, three distinctive features of the earliest choice remained constant; comparatively few theological works were added, almost no books were bought in a language other than English, and the radical, Whig tone of the selection was continued.

ACATALOGUE

OF

BOOKS

BELONGING TO THE

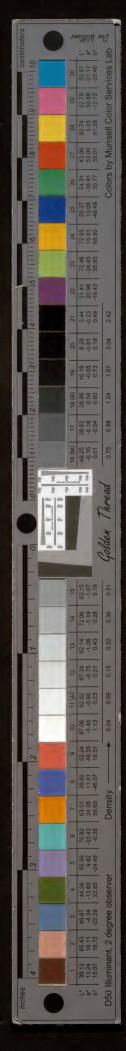
LIBRARY COMPANY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

Communiter bona profundere Deûm est.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by B. Franklin, 1741.



KEY:

- CARDED
- DESIDERATA
- W RESEARCHED



CATALOGUE

OF

BOOKS.

BOOKS in FOLIO.

PAlladio's Architecture, in 4 Books; Containing 20.11.31, short Treatise of the Five Orders, and the most 1732 necessary Observations concerning all Sorts of 2.23,1732.

Building. As also the different Constructions of private

Houses, High-ways, Bridges, Market-places, Xystes, and Temples, with their Plans, Sections, and Uprights.

Exemplified in a great Number of Copper Cuts. 2 Vols. 6546. F

A Collection of the Works, Divine, Moral and Political, 681.13.13.4

of Mr. WILLIAM PENN. 2 Vols. To which is pre-

fixed a Journal of his Life, and many original Letters 198.F and Papers not before published.

The Annals and History of Tacitus, translated by Mro. 31, 1732 Gordon. With some fine political Discourses prefixed by R. 31, 1732 the Translator. 2 Vols. 1728.

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* The date "X. 31, 1732 is approximate, based on partial evidence. Cf. Minute book V. 1. pp 12-14.

oll. 31, 1732 Helvicus's Chronology, in which the Time of the most RS. 31, 1732 emarkable Events in the World is affigned, and when the most famous Men lived, &c.

off. 31,1732 Wood's Institutes of the Laws of England; Published 28. 31, 1732 (in their hatural Order, according to the common Use) for the Direction of young Beginners, or Students in the Law; and of others who defire to have a general Knowledge in our common and flatute Laws. 1728.

off. 31, 1732 Sidney's Discourses on Government; which, being RX. 31,1732 found in his Closet, cost him his Life, in the Reign of

77. F King Charles II.

Qu. 31, 1732 Puffendorff's Law of Nature and Nations, with Mr. R X. 31,1732 Barbeyrac's Notes. To which is prefixed Mr. Barbeyrac's Historical and Critical Account of the Science of Morality, and the Progress it has made in the World from the earliest Times down to the Publication of this 768.F Work. 1729.

oll. 31, 1732 Bailey's Univerfal English Dictionary; containing not RX.31,17320nly the Words and their Explanation, but their Etymologies from 14 or more Languages, and Accents directing their Pronounciation. Also explaining the Terms of Art in all Sciences and Mysteries, illustrated

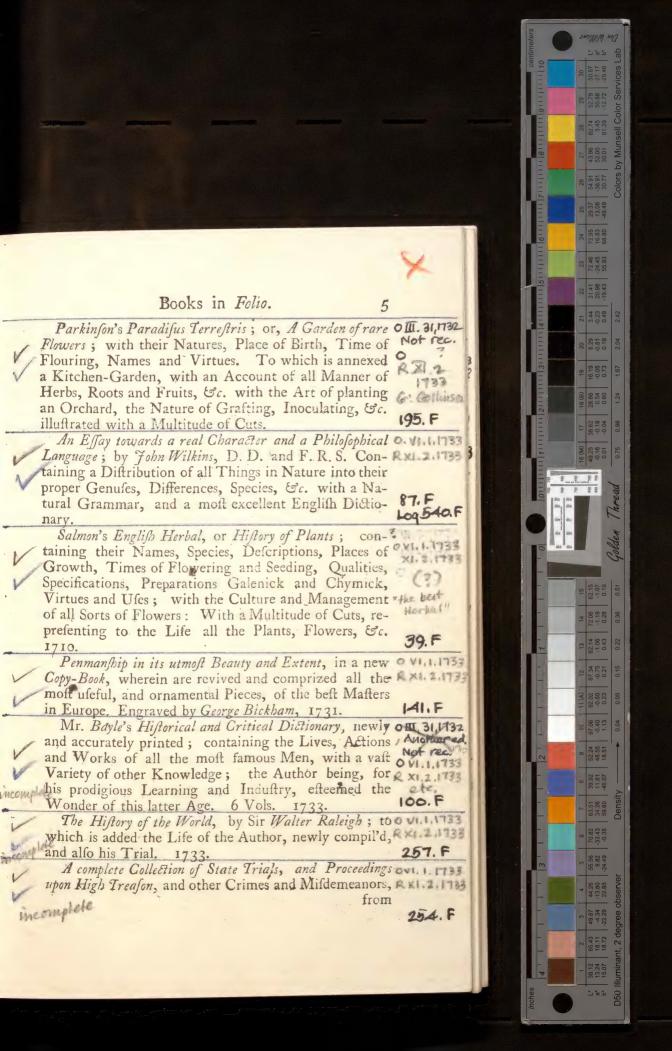
with near 500 Cuts. 1730.

2. 31, 1732 The Gardiners Dictionary, by F. Miller, F. R. S. containing the Methods of cultivating and improving G: Peter the Kitchen, Fruit, and Flower-Garden, according to Collinson the Practice of the most experienced Gardiners of the present Age; interspersed with a great Deal of curious 15 1729 Natural Philosophy, and adorned with Copper Plates. 1731. [Given to the Library by P. Collinson, F.sq; of 69.F London. F. R. S.]

out. 31, 1732 The History of Philosophy, containing the Lives, Opi-R.S. 31,1732 nions, Actions, and Discourses of all the antient Philofophers. By Tho. Stanley, Efq;

6 vi. 1. 1733 All the Works, Moral, Political, Historical, &c. of 168.F Sir William Temple, Bart. 2 Vols.

Par-



from the Reign of King Richard II. to the End of the Reign of King George I. 6 Vols.

G: Logan e. 14.14.

The Royal Commentaries of Peru; In two Parts. 1.
Treating of the Original of their Incas or Kings; of their Idolatry; of their Laws and Government both in Peace and War; of the Reigns and Conquests of the Incas: With many other Particulars relating to their Empire and Policy before such Time as the Spaniards invaded their Countries. 2. Describing the Manner by which that new World was conquered by the Spaniards. Also the Civil Wars between the Picarrists and the Almagrians, occasioned by Quarrels arising about the Division of that Land; of the Rise and Fall of the Rebels; and other Particulars contained in that History. Written originally in Spanish, by the Inca Garcilass de la Vega, and rendered into English by Sir Paul Rycaut, Knt.

cetured The Holy Bible, with the Apocrypha, [Given to the Library by Mr. Robert Grace.]

Plutarch's Morals, in English. [Given by Mr. Joseph Breintnal.]

Fox's Acts and Monuments of the Church, from the primitive Age to these Times of ours; with the bloody Times, horrible Troubles, and great Persecutions against

Times, horrible Troubles, and great Persecutions against the true Martyrs of Christ, both by Heathen Emperors and Popish Prelates: 3 Vols. [Given by Mr. Robert Grace.]

RE. 19.1733 The Merchant's Map of Commerce, handling the unity versal Matter and Manner of Trade, with the Coins, Weights and Measures of all Places of Traffique. By L. Roberts. 1637. [Given by Mr. Joseph Breintnal.]

Sir Francis Bacon. Whereto is added, his History of Life and Death, and the new Atlantis. [Given by Mr.]

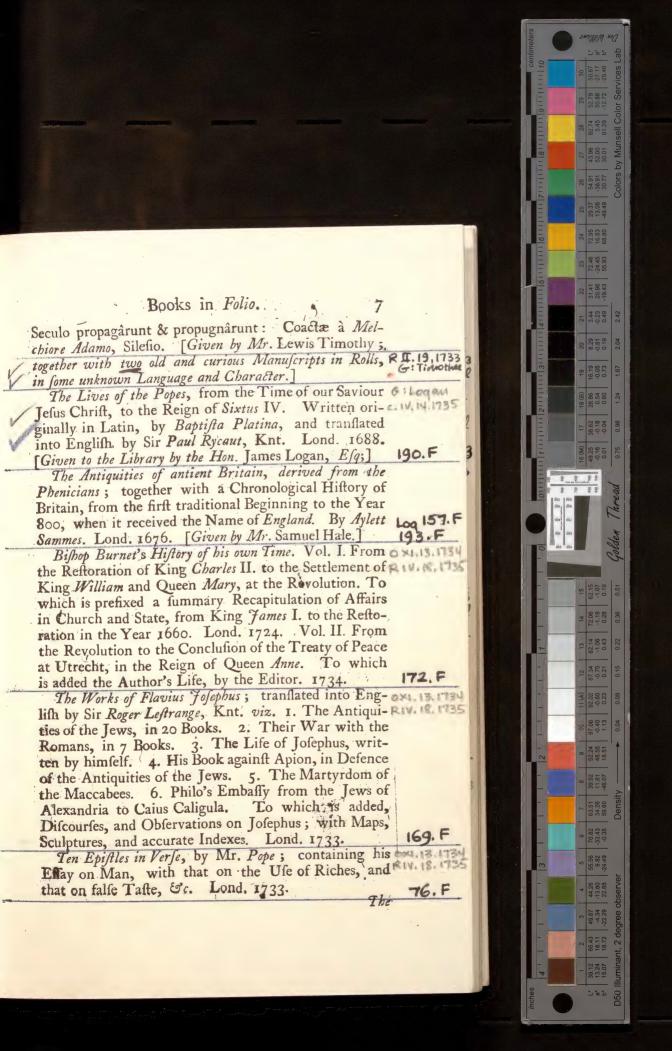
241. F Francis Richardson.]

RII. 19, 1733 Decades Duæ, continentes Vitas Theologorum ex
G: Timothemerorum & Principum, qui Ecclesiam Christi superiori

143.F

10. F

Seculo



The History of the Wars of Flanders; written in Italian by Cardinal Bentivoglio: With a Map of the Seventeen 216.F Provinces. Lond. 1678. The Byble in Englyshe. Ouersene at the Commaundement of Kynge Henrye viii. 1541. [Given by Mr. William Fry.] 65. F Biblia Sacra, or, The Bible in Latin. By Tremellius. and Junius. With Notes. [Given by Peter Evans, E/q;] 164.F The Britannic Constitution; or, The Fundamental Form of Government in Britain; Demonstrating the Original Contract enter'd into by King and People. Wherein is proved, That the Placing on the Throne King William III. was the natural Fruit and Effect of the Original Constitution, &c. By Roger Acherly, Efq; 159.F

Lond. 1727. The History of the Reformation of the Church of England. By Gilbert Burnet, D. D. 3 Vols. The 4th Edition, with Amendments. Lond. 1715.

BIL. 19, 1733 A new Version of the Psalms of David. By Sir Richard Blackmore, Knt. M. D. Lond. 1721. Blackmore, Knt. M. D. Lond. 1721.

Burchet's Naval History; or, A complete History of the most remarkable Transactions at Sea, from the earliest Accounts of Time, to the Conclusion of the last War with France. Adorn'd with Sea-Charts adapted to the History. By Josiah Burchet, Esq; Secretary of

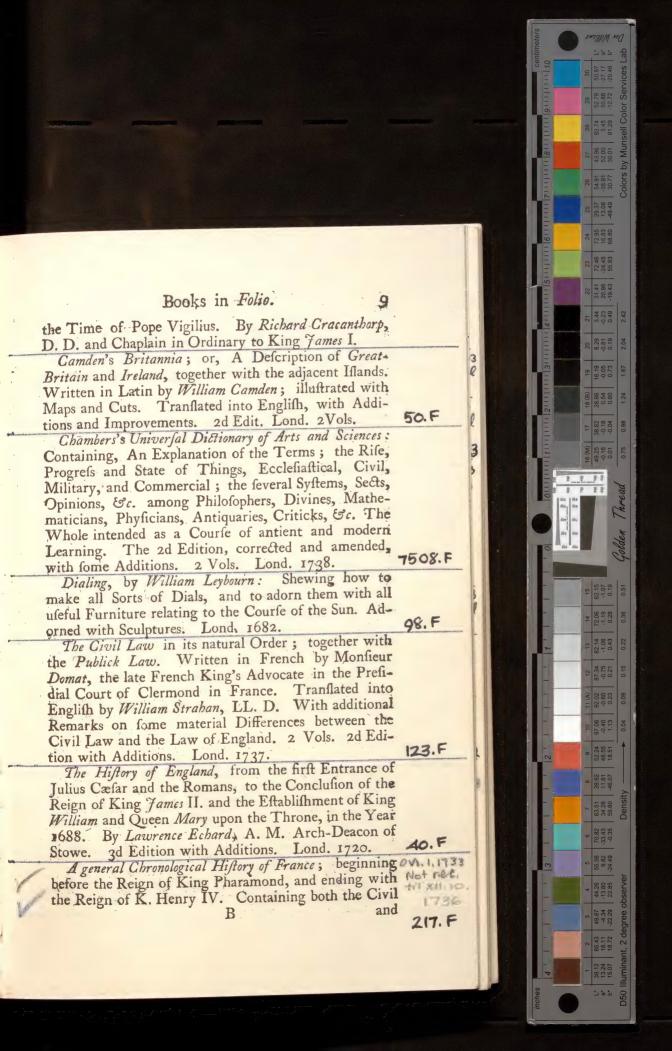
the Admiralty. Lond. 1720. 228.F

The History of the Council of Trent. In which, besides the ordinary Acts of the Council, are declared many notable Occurrences which happened in Christendom during the Space of 40 Years and more; and particularly the Practices of the Court of Rome, to hinder the Reformation of their Errors, and to maintain their Greatness. Written in Italian by Father Paul, and translated by Sir Nathanael Brent. Whereunto is added the Life of the learned Author, and the History of the Inquisition. Lond. 1676.

A Treatise of the fifth general Council, held at Constantinople Anno 553. under Justinian the Emperor, in

243.F

215.F



and Ecclefiastical Transactions of that Kingdom., By the Sieur de Mezeray. Translated by John Bulteel, Gent. Lond. 1683.

History of the Civil War of France. Written in Ital. by H. C. Davila. Translated out of the Original.

1629, F 2d Impression. Lond. 1678.

The Lives of Pope Alexander VI. and his Son Clafar Borgia. Comprehending the Wars in the Reigns of Charles VIII. and Lewis XII. Kings of France; and the chief Transactions and Revolutions in Italy, from the Year 1492, to the Year 1506. With an Appendix

L09-482.F of Original Pieces referred to in the Work. By Alex-180.F

ander Gordon, A. M. Lond. 1729.
The Rights of War and Peace; in 3 Books: Wherein are explained, the Law of Nature and Nations, and the principal Points relating to Government. Written in Latin by the learned Hugo Grotius, and translated into English. To which are added all the large Notes of

54.F Mr. J. Barbeyrac. Lond. 1738.

History of the City and State of Geneva. Spon, D. M. Lond. 1687. [Given by Mr. Alexader

210.F 845.F Graydon.]

Cosmography, in 4 Books: Containg the Chorography and History of the whole World, and all the principal Kingdoms, Provinces, Seas and the Isles thereof. By Peter Heylyn, D. D. Improved with an Historical Continuation to the present Times, by Edmund Bohun,

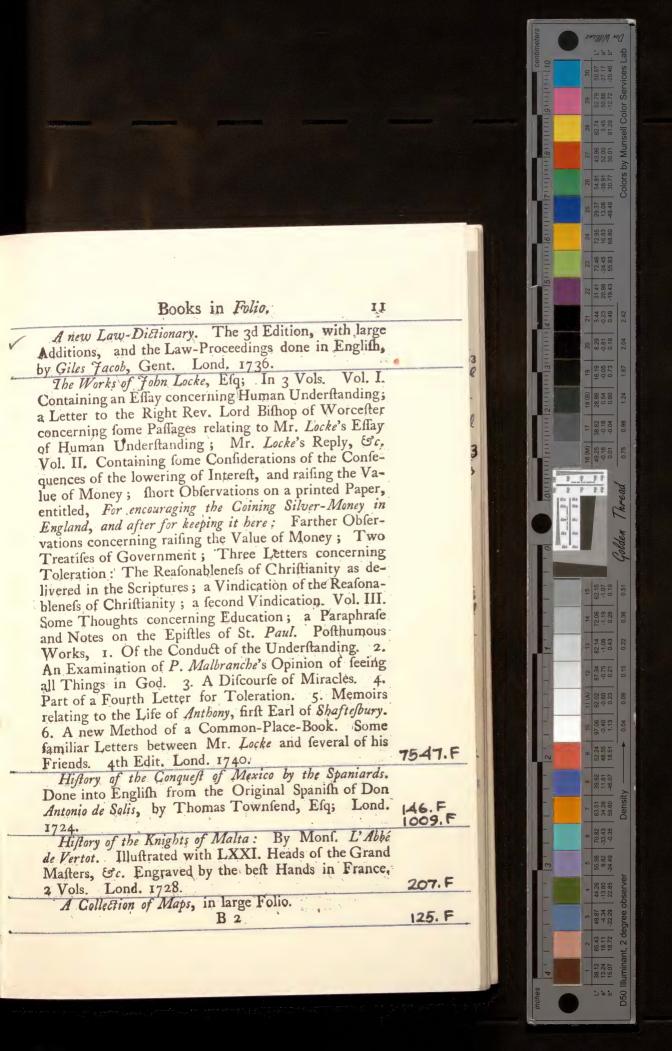
52.F Esq; Lond. 1703.

45. F

The Works of that learned and judicious Divine, Mr. Richard Hooker, in VIII. Books, of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity. To which are added several other Treatises by the same Author: Together with the Life of the Author, written by Isaac Walton. Lond. 1723.

Historia Insignium Illustrium, seu Operis Heraldici Pars Specialis, &c. Authore Philippo Jacobo Spenero. Francofurti ad Moenum, 1680. [Given to the Library by Mr.

181. F Gustavus Hesselius.]



A complete Collection of the Historical, Political, and Miscellaneous Works of Mr. John Milton. With an Historical and Critical Account of the Life and Writ-

202. Fings of the Author. 2 Vols. Lond. 1738.

The Memoirs of Sir James Melvil: Containing an impartial Account of the most remarkable Affairs of State, during the last Age, not mentioned by other Historians; more particularly relating to the Kingdoms of England and Scotland, under the Reigns of Queen

Log 581. F Elisabeth, Mary Queen of Scots, and King James.

232. F By George Scott, Gent. Lond. 1683.

Antiquity explained, and represented in Sculptures. By the learned Father Montfaucon. 7 Vols. Translated into English by David Humphreys, M.A. Lond. 1725.

The Antiquities of Italy: Being the Travels of the Learned and Rev. Bernard de Montfaucon, from Paris thro' Italy, in the Years 1698, 1699. Made English from the Paris Edition of the Latin Original. Adorned with Cuts, 2d Edit. Revised by John Henley, M. A.

55.F Lond. 1725.

44.F

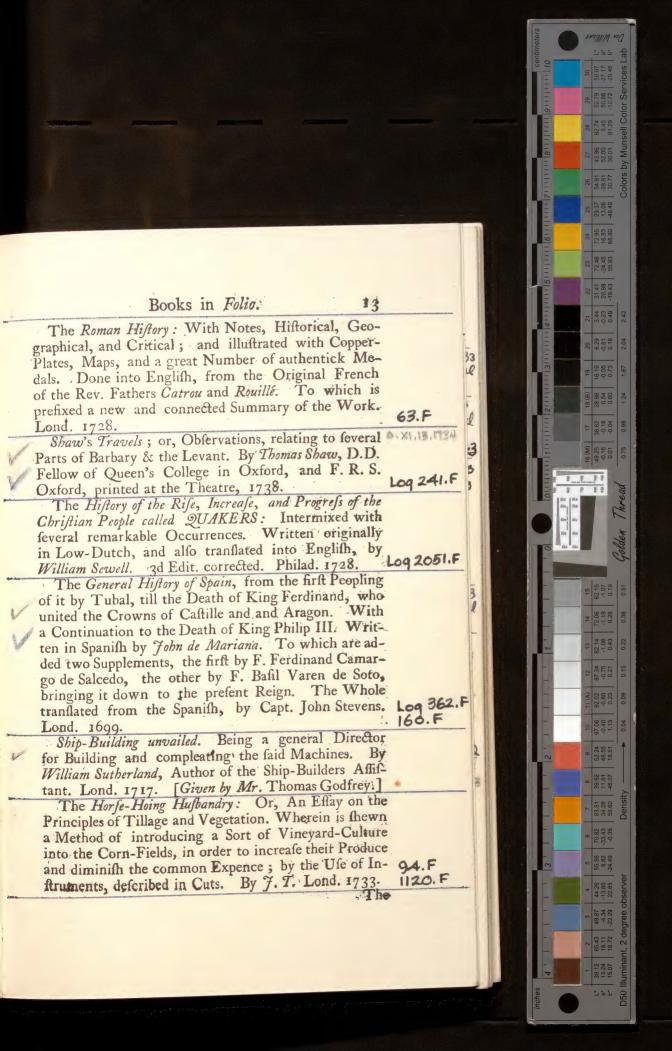
The Civil History of the Kingdom of Naples. 2 Vols. Written in Italian by Pietro Giannone, Civilian and Advocate in Naples, and published 1723. Translated into English by Capt. James Ogilvie. Lond. 1729.

The History of the Growth and Decay of the Othman Empire. Written originally in Latin, by Demetrius Cantemir, late Prince of Moldavia. Translated into English, from the Author's own Manuscript, by N. Tindal, M. A. Adorned with Heads of the Turkish

185. F Emperors. Lond. 1734.

Historical Collections, of private Passages of State, weighty Matters in Law, remarkable Proceedings in Five Parliaments, beginning the 16th Year of King James, A. 1618, and ending the 5th Year of King Charles, A. 1629. Digested in Order of Time, and published, by John Rushworth, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq. Note.

204. F 8 Vols. Lond. 1721.



The Works of the Most Reverend Dr. John Tillotson, late Lord Achbishop of Canterbury. 3 Vols. 10th.

152.F Edit. Lond. 1735.

The History of the Assairs of Europe, but more particularly the Republick of Venice. Written in Italian by Battista Nani, Cavalier and Procurator of St. Mark. Englished by Sir Robert Honywood, Knt. Lond. 1673.

- Vitruvius Britannicus; or, The British Architect: Containing the Plans, Elevations and Sections of the regular Buildings, both publick and private, in Great-Britain. With Variety of new Designs in 200 large Folio Plates, engraven by the best Hands. 2 Vols. To which is added the Geometrical Plans of the most considerable Gardens and Plantations; with large Views in Perspective of the most remarkable Edifices in Great-Britain, engraven by the best Hands in 100 large Folio Plates. By Colin Campbell, Esq; Architect to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Lond. 1731.

Memorials of the English Affairs; or, An Historical Account of what passed from the Beginning of the Reign of King Charles I. to King Charles II. his happy Restauration. Containing the publick Transactions, Civil and Military. Together with the private Confultations and Secrets of the Cabinet. By Mr. Whitelock. With a complete Index. A new Edition, with many

47. F Additions. Lond. 1732.

A brief Narrative of the Case and Trial of John Peter Zenger, Printer of the New-York Weekly Journal. [Given

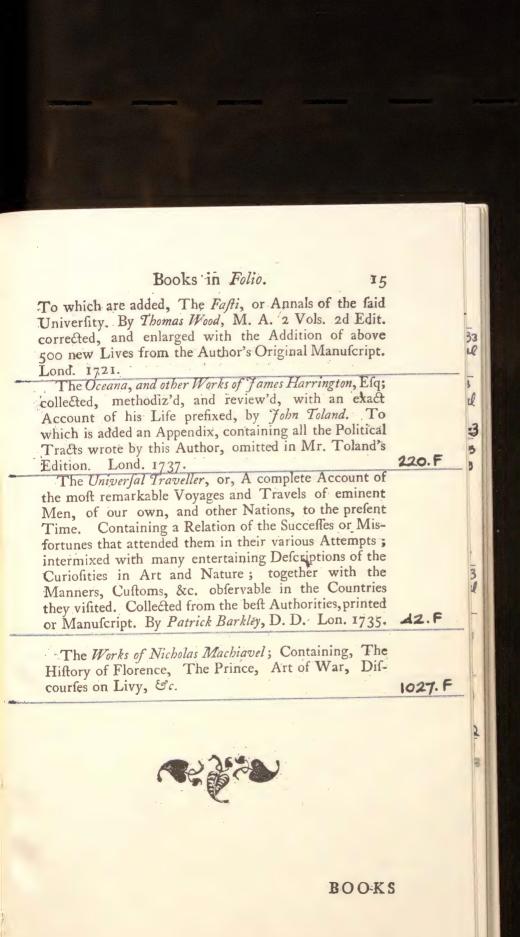
230. F by Mr. Henry Pratt.]

Wood's Athenæ Oxoniensis; or, An exact History of all the Writers and Bishops who have had their Education in the most ancient and famous University of Oxford, from the 15th Year of King Henry VII. 1500, to the Author's Death in November 1695: Representing the Birth, Fortune, Preserment, and Death, of all those Authors and Prelates, the great Accidents of their Lives, and the Fate and Character of their Writings.

48. F Log 51. F

4.F

A. F (Rush)





BOOKS in QUARTO.

Regard to the Trade of Great-Britain, with Proposals for raising raw Silk, and the great Probability of

35. Q fucceeding therein. By Benjamin Martyn. 1733.

R. XI. 2.1733 The Practice of Perspective: Or, An easy Method

of representing natural Objects according to the Rules of Art, applied and exemplified in all the Variety of Cases; as Landskips, Gardens, Buildings of divers Kinds, their Appendages, Parts, Furniture, &c. With Rules for the Proportions, Positions, &c. of Figures, both in Draught and Relievo, &c. A Work highly necessary for Painters, Engravers, Architects, Embroiderers, &c. Illustrated with 150 Copper Plates. Written in French by a Jesuit of Paris, and translated into English.

The History of the Royal Society of London, for propagating Natural Knowledge. By Thomas Sprat.

Lond. 1667. (Given by Mr. J. Robinson.)

The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, the 25.31,1732 Experiments they have tried, Improvements they have made, and Accounts they have received from Foreign Parts, to the Year 1720. Abridged by Lowthorp and

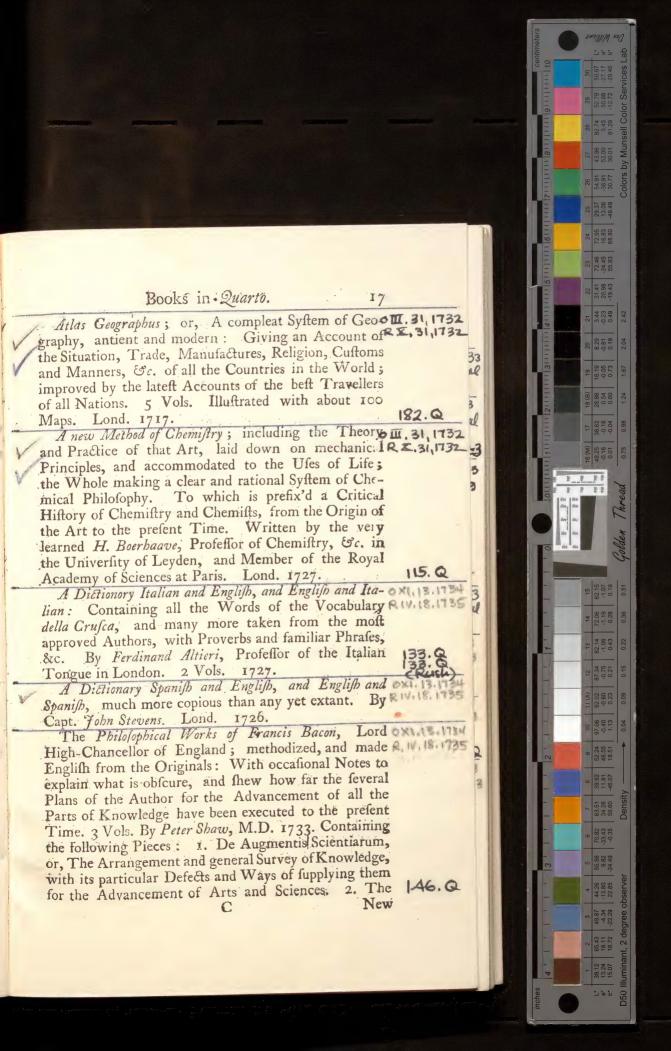
161. Q Fones. With many Cuts. 5 Vols.

3. 31, 1732 A Vew of Sir Isaac Newton's Philosophy; By Henry P. Colling Pemberton: Beautifully printed. (Given to the Library 99. Q by Pet. Collinson, Esq; of London.)

6 M. 31, 1732 An Analytick Treatise of Conick Sections, and their Use RX. 31,1732 for Resolving of Equations in determinate and indeterminate Problems. By the Marquis De l' Hospital, Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

175.Q 1723

Atlas



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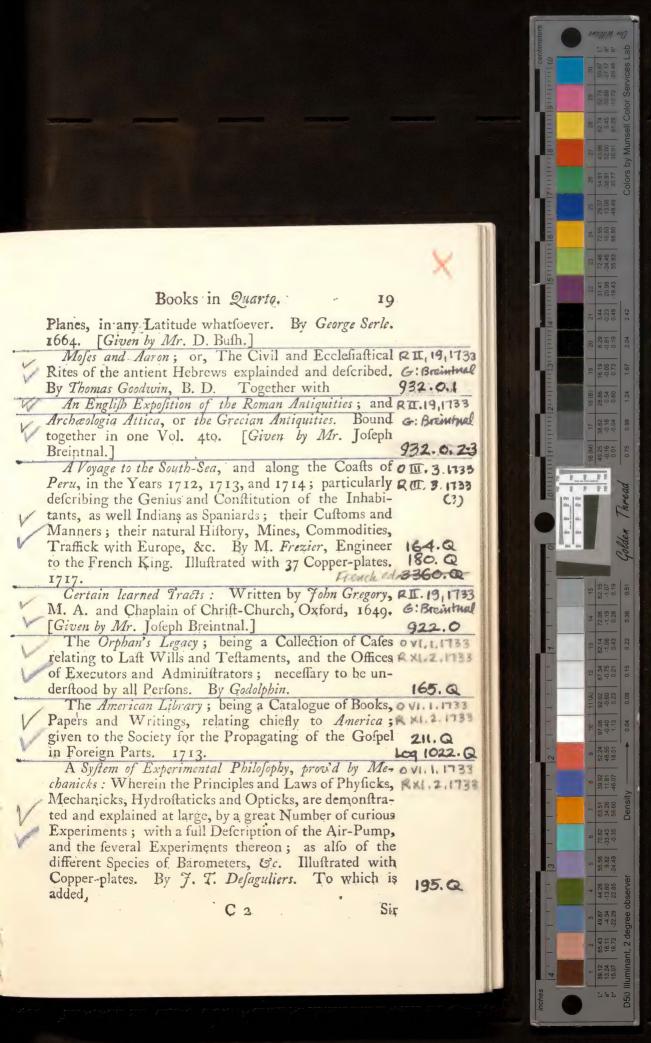
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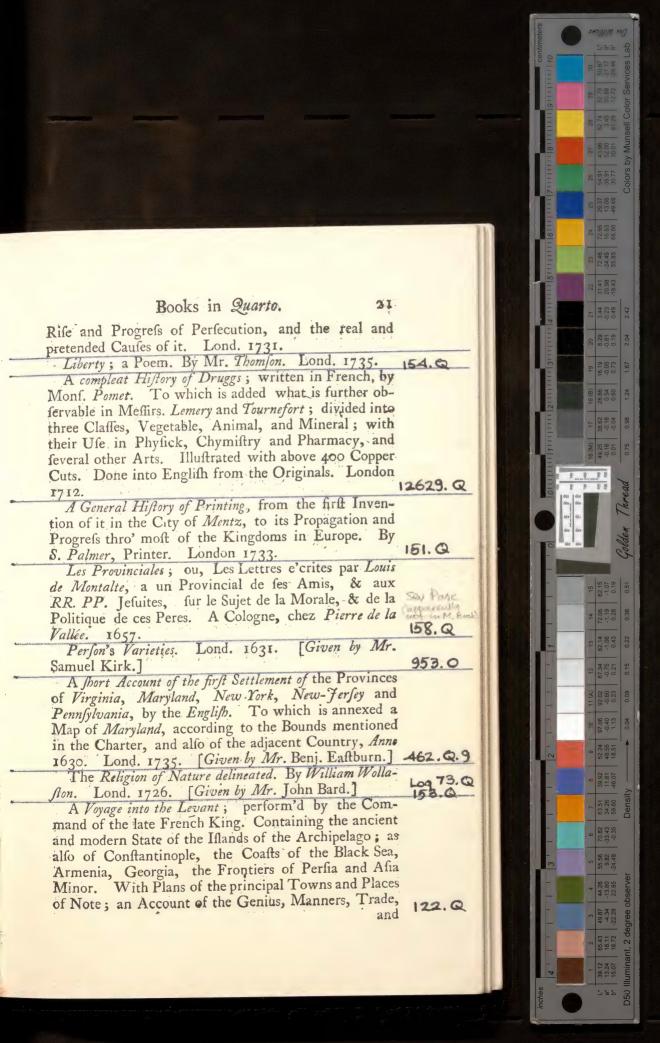
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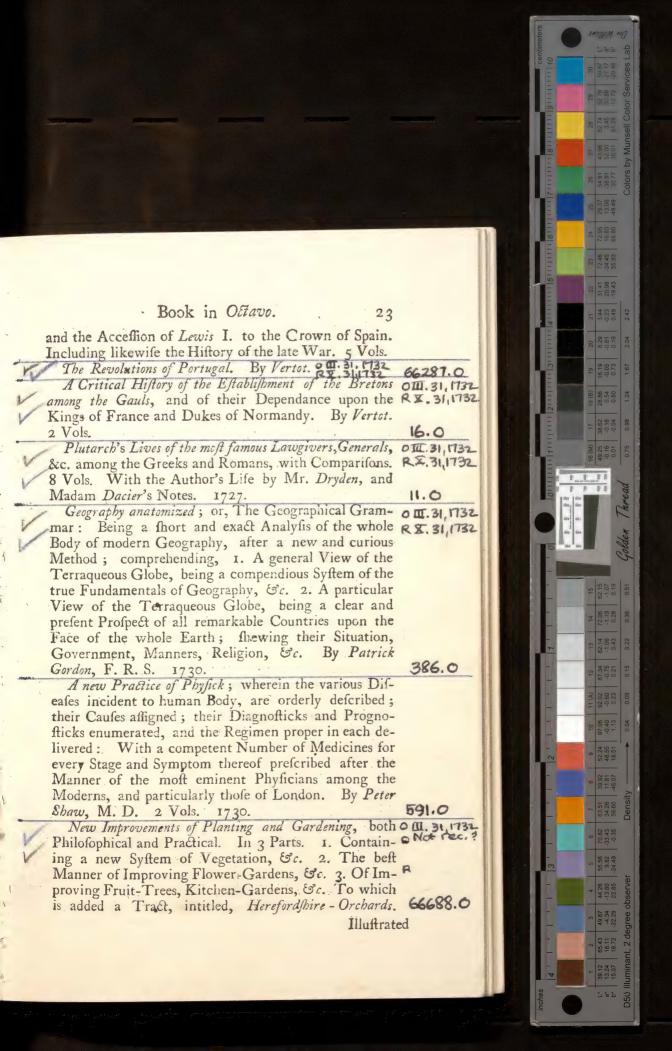
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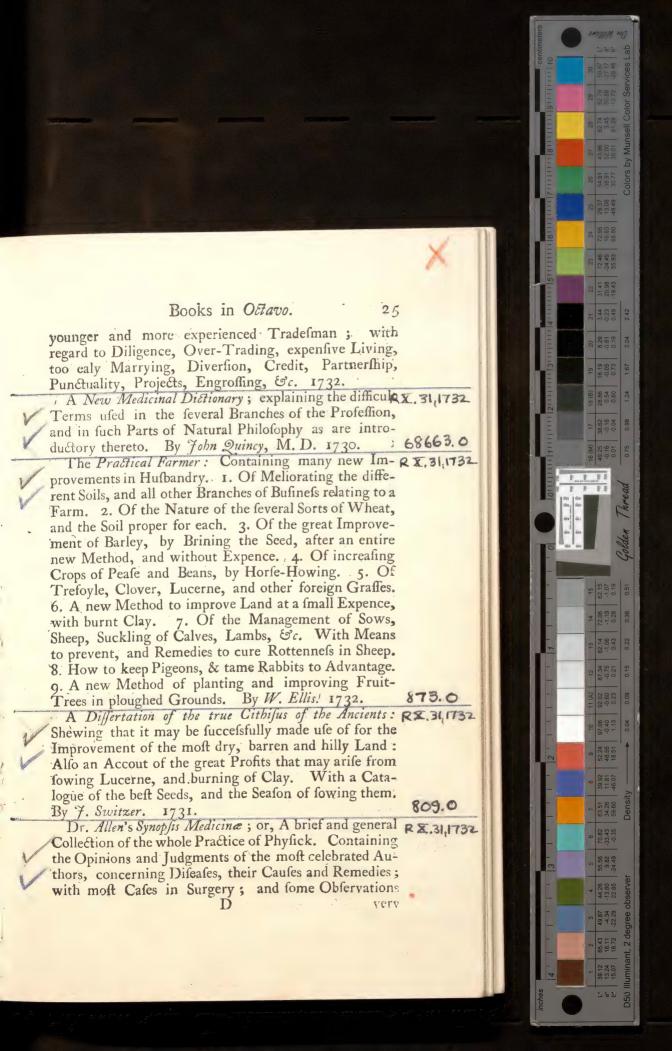
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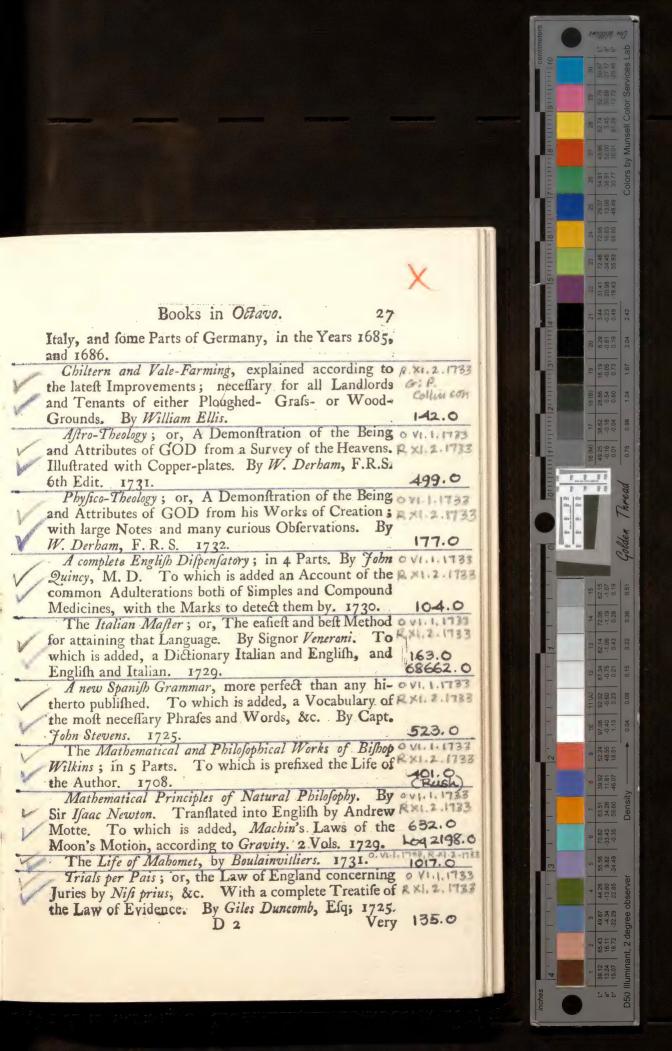
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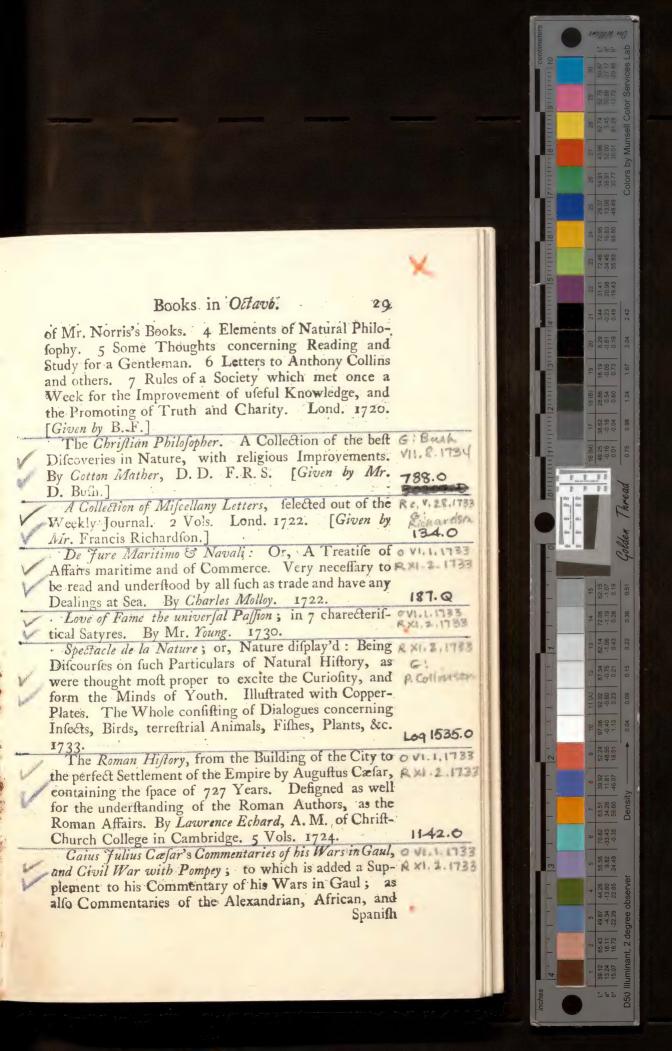
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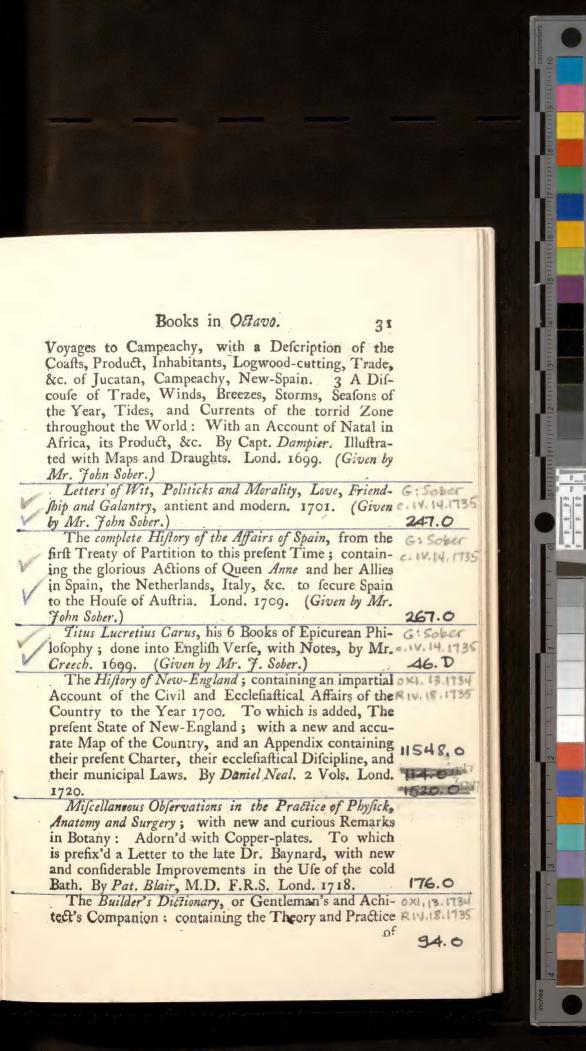
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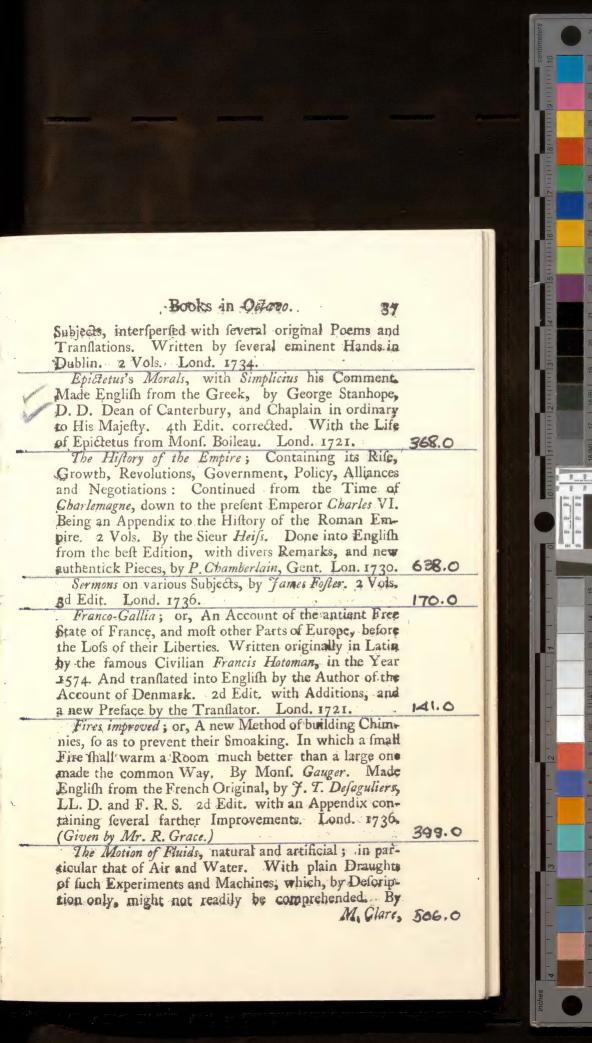
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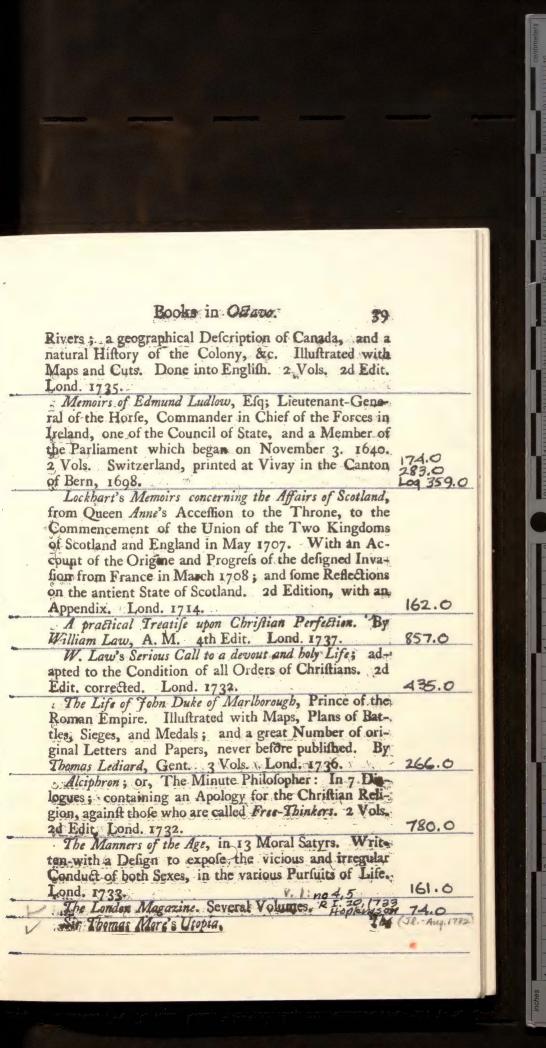
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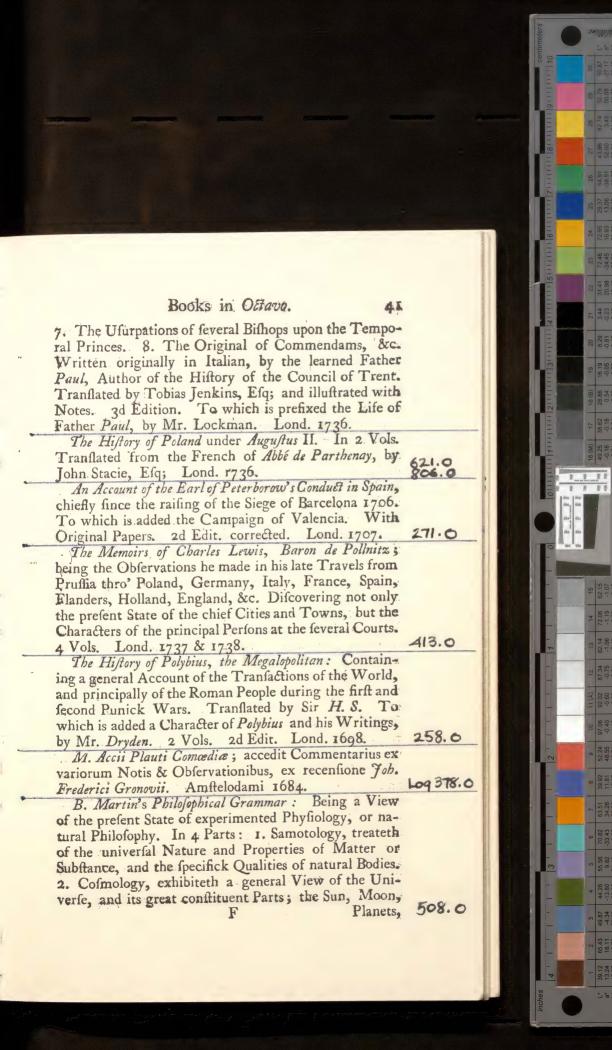
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French. 4 Vols. 2d Edit. Lond. 1737. A cruifing Voyage round the World: First to the South-Sea, thence to the East-Indies, and homewards by the Cape of Good Hope. Begun in 1708, and finished in 1711. Containing a Journal of all the remarkable Transactions; particularly of the Taking of Puna and Guiaquil, of the Acapulca Ship, and other Prizes: An Account of Alex. Selkirk's living alone 4 Years and 4 Months in an Island; and a brief Description of several Countries noted for Trade, especially in the South-Sea. With Maps of all the Coast, from the best Spanish Manuscripts and Draughts; and an Introduction relating to the South-Sea Trade. By Capt. Woodes Rogers, Commander in Chief in this Expedition with the Ships Duke and Dutchess of Bristol. 2d Edition, corrected. Lond. 1718.

Spectacle de la Nature ; or, Nature display'd : Being Discourses on such Particulars of Natural History, as were thought most proper to excite the Curiofity, and form the Minds of Youth. 3 Vols, Illustrated F 2

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with Copper-plates. Translated from the Original French, by Mr. Humphreys. 3d Edition, corrected. Lond. 1736.

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The whole Works of that excellent practical Physician Dr. Thomas Sydenham. Wherein not only the History and Cures of acute Diseases are treated of, after a new and accurate Method, but also the shortest and safest Way of curing most Chronical Diseases. Corrected from the original Latin, by J. Pechy, M. D. of the College of Physicians in London. 10th Edit. Lond. 1734.

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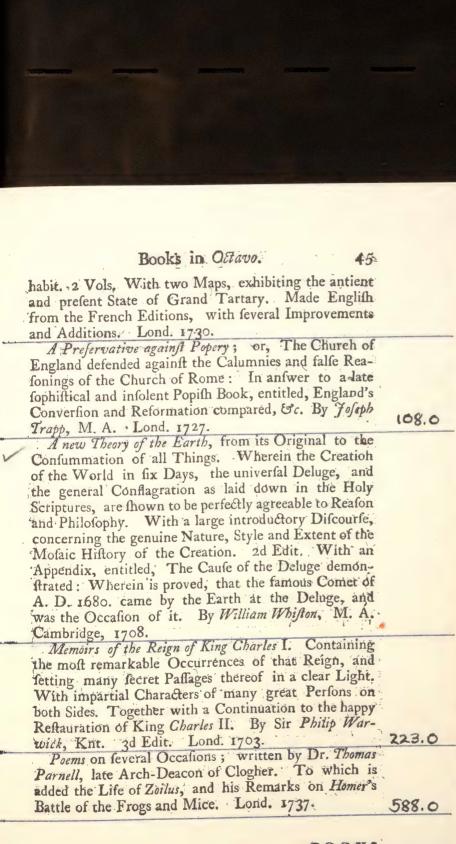
Tully's five Books De Finibus; or, concerning the last Object of Desire or Aversion. Done into English, by S. P. Gent. Revised and compared with the Original, with a recommendatory Presace, by Jer. Collier, M.A. Together with an Apology for the Philosophical Writings of Cierra, in a Letter to the Translator, by Honey

334.0 ings of Cicero, in a Letter to the Translator, by Henry 3482.0 Dodwell. Lond. 1702.

A general History of the Turks, Moguls, and Tartars: Together with a Description of the Countries they inhabit.

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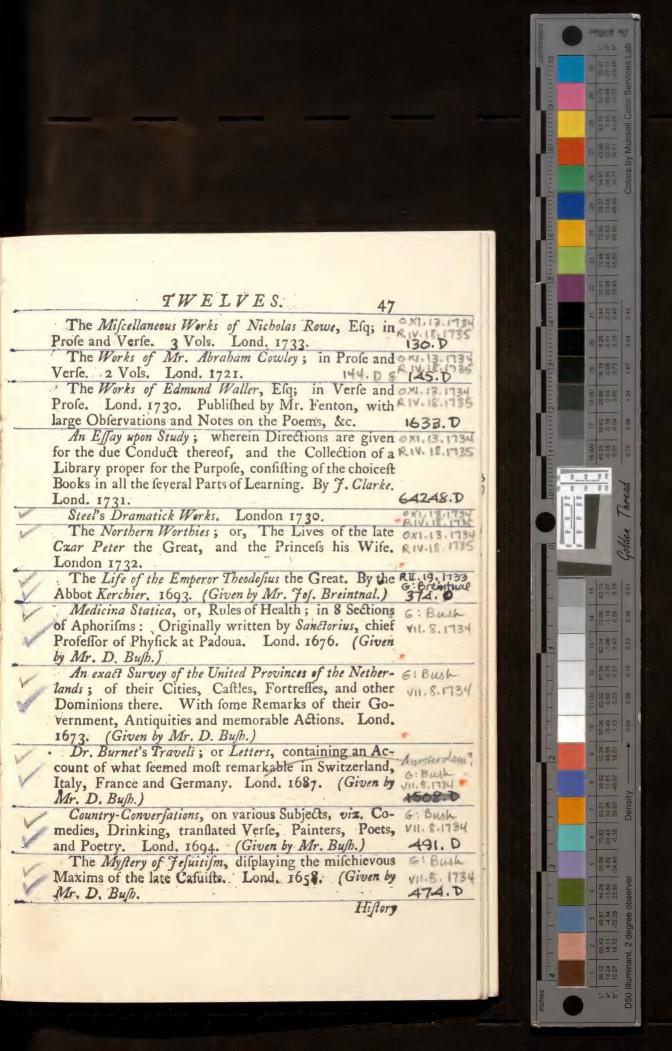
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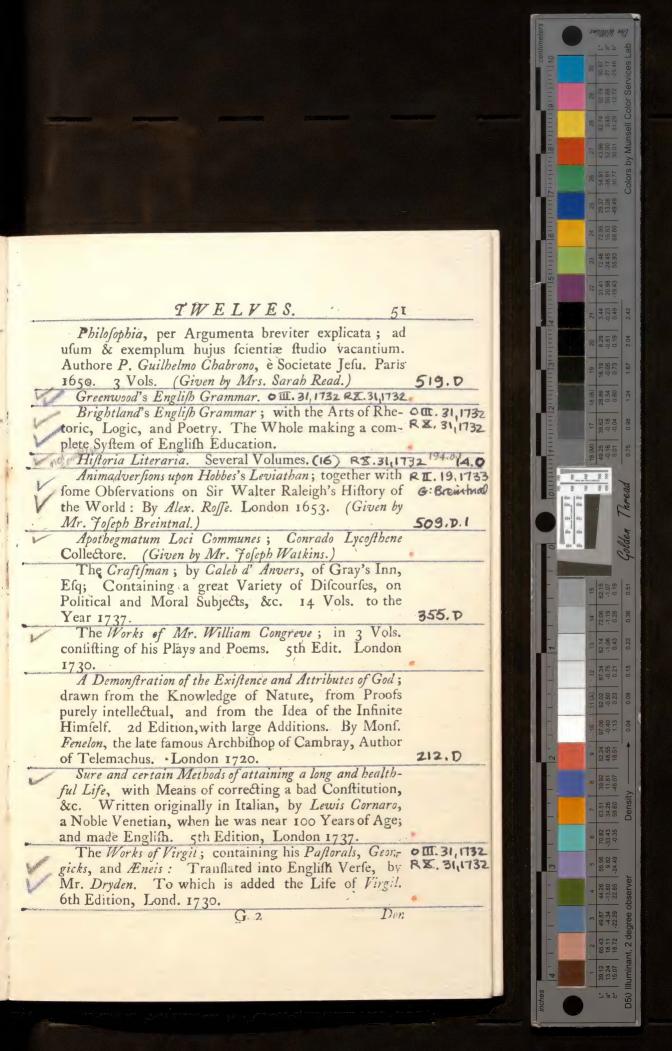
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"Remarks by Litchfield"



Don Quinote [in Spanish] by Miguel de Cervantes.
Saavedra. En Amberes, 1719. 2 Vols.

Don Quixote, translated into English by several Hands. 4 Vols. Adorned with Cuts. 6th Edition, revised by J. Ozell, London 1733.

Memoirs of the Carainal de Retz; Containing the Memoirs of his own Life, with the most secret Transactions at the French Court, during the Administration of Cardinal Mazarine; and the Civil Wars occasioned by it. To which are added some other Pieces written by the Cardinal de Retz, explanatory to these Memoirs. A Vols. Translated from the French, with Notes.

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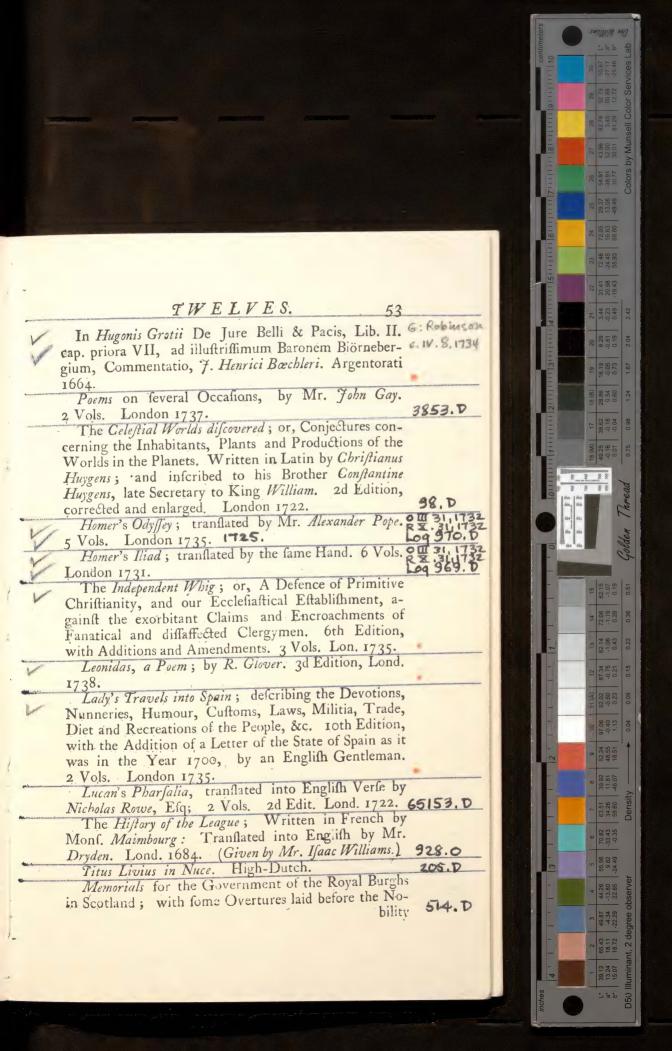
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Instructions for the Education of a Daughter; by the Author of Telemachus. To which is added a small Tract of Instructions for the Conduct of young Ladies of the highest Rank, with suitable Devotions annexed. Done into English by Dr. Geo. Hickes. 4th Edition,

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Farriery improved; or, A complete Treatife upon the Art of Farriery: Wherein is explained the Nature, Structure, and Mechanism of a Horse; the Diseases and Accidents he is hable to, and Methods of Cure, &c. By Henry Bracken, M.D. Author of the Notes on Surdon. 2d Edition, London 1739.

The Dunciad, by Alexander Pope, Esq; With the Prolegomena of Scribberus, and Notes Variorum. Lond. 3736.



bility and Gentry of the several Shires in this Kingdom; as also a Survey of the City of Aberdeen; with the Epigrams of Arthur Johnston upon some of our chief Burghs, translated into English, Aberdeen 1685.

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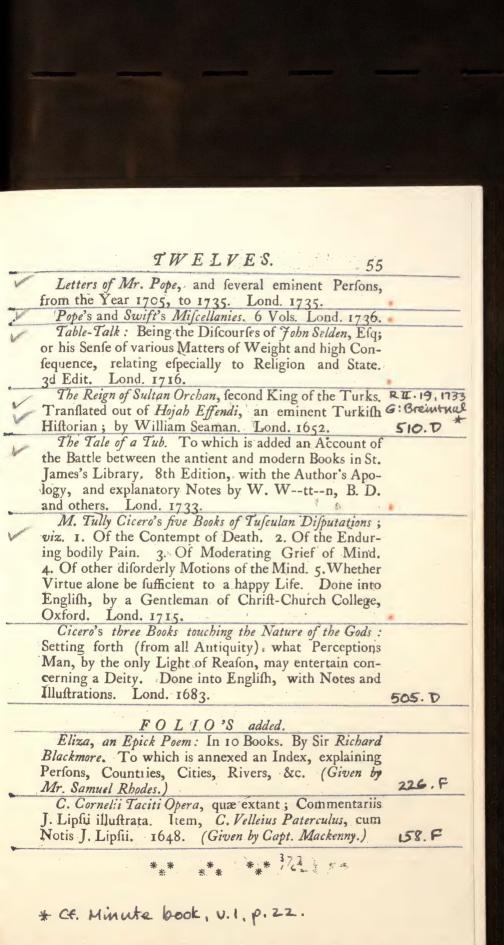
The Lives of all the Princes of Orange, from William the Great, Founder of the Common Wealth of the united Provinces. Written in French by the Baron Maurier, in the Year 1682, and published at Paris by Order of the French King. To which is added the Life of King William III. from his Birth to his Landing in England, by Mr. Thomas Brown. Together with all the Princes Heads taken from original Draughts. Lond.

235.0 1693.

368. D

The Works of Plato abridged: With an Account of his Life, Philosophy, Morals and Politicks. Together with a Translation of his choicest Dialogues. 2 Vols. Illustrated with Notes by M. Dacier. Translated from the French by several Hands. 2d Edition, corrected. Lond. 1720.

7. D Lond. 1720.



A Short Account of the LIBRARY.

HE Library-Company was form'd in 1731, by Constitutions or Articles entred into by 50 Persons, each oblighing himself to pay 40 s. for purchasing the first Parcel of Books, and 10 s. per annum to defray Charges and encrease the Library.

Ten Directors or Managers of the Library, and a Treasurer, are chosen

yearly by Vote, at a General Meeting of the Company.

The Number of Members are now encreased to upwards of 70. Persons enclining to be admitted, apply to any one of the Directors, who nominates them at the next monthly Meeting of Directors; and being allowed, and paying to the Treasurer the Value of a Share at the Time, and signing the Articles, they become Members.

Any Member may borrow a Book for 2, 3, or 4 Weeks, leaving his Note for double Value, and paying a small Penalty if 'tis not return'd at the Time agreed; which Penalties are applied to defraying Charges, or pur-

chafing more Books.

Every Member has an absolute Property in his Share; may devise it in his Will, or dispose of it when he pleases to any Person the Directors approve. And Shares so sold have always hitnerto yielded as much as they had cost. As Shares encrease yearly in Value 10s. so much being yearly added by each Subscriber to the Stock of Books, a Share which at first was worth but 40s. is now valued at 6 l. 10s. But for this small Sum, which, laid out in Books, would go but a little Way, every Member has the Use of a Library now worth upwards of 500 l. whereby Knowledge is in this City render'd more cheap and easy to be come at, to the great Pleasure and Advantage of the studious Part of the Inhabitants.

Those who are not Subscribers may notwithstanding borrow Books, leaving in the Hands of the Librarian, as a Piedge, a Sum of Money proportion'd to the Value of the Book borrow'd, and paying a small Acknowledgment for the Reading, which is apply'd to the Use of the Library.

The Library is open and Attendance given every Saturday Afternoon

from 4 a Clock 'til 8.

Besides the Books in this Catalogue given to the Library, the Company have been savour'd with several generous Donations; as, a curious Air-Pump, with its Apparatus, a large double Microscope, and other valuable Instruments, from the Hon. John Penn, Erg; A handsome Lot of Ground whereon to build a House for the Library, from the Hon. Thomas Penn, Esq; Proprietaries of the Province; and the Sum of 34 Le Sterl. (to be laid out in Books) from Dr. Sydserse, late of Antigua.

At present the Books are deposited in the West Wing of the State-House,

by Favour of the General Affembly.

It is now Ten Years fince the Company was first established; and we have the Pleasure of observing, That the 'tis compos'd of so many Persons of different Sects, Parties and Ways of Thinking, yet no Differences relating to the Affairs of the Library, have arrien among us; but every Thing has been conducted with great Harmony, and to general Satisfaction. Which happy Circumstance will, we hope, always continue.

Note, A Copy of the Articles or Constitutions is left in the Library, for the Perusal of all that desire to be more fully informed.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

One hitherto unidentified product of Franklin's pen is printed at the end of the catalogue, the brief account of the Library Company on the last page. According to the Minute Book, on July 13, 1741 "B. Franklin read a Paper containing a Brief Account of the Library, which he said he wrote to fill up a Blank that happens to be at the End of the Catalogue he is printing; of which he desired the Opinion of the other Directors present, & they approved of his Design." This certainly will in the future be included in the canon of Franklin's writings.

It has seemed worth while to include descriptions and a census of the extant, pre-Revolutionary catalogues of the Library Company, since this information is not easily available.

I. A/CATALOGUE/OF/BOOKS/BELONGING TO THE/ LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/PHILADELPHIA./[line]/Communiter bona profundere Deûm est./[double-line]/PHILA-DELPHIA: Printed by B. Franklin, 1741. Collation: A-G⁴; title-page, verso blank; Catalogue, pp. [3]-55; Account of the Library, p. [56].

Copies: MWA, PHi, PPL.

2. THE / CHARTER / OF THE / LIBRARY COMPANY / OF / PHILADELPHIA. / [double-line—two ornaments—double line] / PHILADELPHIA: / Printed by B. FRANKLIN, M,DCC, XLVI.

[2nd title] LAWS/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/PHILA-DELPHIA./Made, in PURSUANCE of their/CHARTER,/At a GENERAL MEETING,/held in the LIBRARY, on the Third Day/of May, 1742./[double-line]/PHILADELPHIA:/Printed by B. FRANKLIN, M.DCC,XLVI.

[3rd title, caption] [type-ornament border]/BOOKS/Added to the/LIBRARY/Since the YEAR 1741./[line]

Collation: A⁴A-B⁴A-D⁴; title-page; Charter, pp. 2-8; title-page, verso blank; Laws, pp. 3-15, blank, p. [16]; Catalogue, pp. 1-28; Rules, 3 pp., Advertisement, 1 p. Copies: cty, mb (pts. 2 and 3 only), PHi (2 copies), PP, PPL, PU.

3. THE/CHARTER,/LAWS,/AND/CATALOGUE OF BOOKS,/
OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/PHILADELPHIA./
[line]/Communiter bona profundere Deûm est./[doubleline]/PHILADELPHIA:/Printed by B. FRANKLIN, and
D. HALL./[rule]/MDCCLVII.

Collation: a-b⁴c-d²A-C⁴D²E⁴F²G-R⁴S²; title-page, verso blank; Charter, pp. 3-8; Laws, pp. 9-20; Account of the Library, pp. 21-23, blank, p. [24]; Catalogue, pp. 1-127, blank, p. [128]; Description of Collection of Medals, pp. 129-132.

Copies: CSMH, Cty, PHi, PPL (2 copies).

4. THE/CHARTER,/LAWS,/AND CATALOGUE OF BOOKS,/
OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/PHILADELPHIA./
[line]/Communiter bona profundere Deûm est./[doubleline]/PHILADELPHIA:/Printed by B. FRANKLIN and
D. HALL./M,DCC,LXIV.

Collation: A-L⁸; title-page, verso blank; Charter, pp. 3-8; Laws, pp. 9-18; Rules, pp. 19-21, blank, p. [22]; Account of Library, pp. 23-26; Catalogue, pp. 1-143, blank, p. [144]; Description of Collection of Medals, pp. 145-148; List of Members, pp. 149-150.

Copies: csmh, cty, dlc (3 copies), MB, MH, MWA, Miu-c, NHi, NN (2 copies), PHi, PPAMP, PPL (3 copies), PU, RP, RPJCB, VU, and others.

5. THE / CHARTER, / LAWS, / AND / CATALOGUE / OF / BOOKS, / OF THE / LIBRARY COMPANY / OF / PHILADEL-PHIA. / With a Short Account of the Library prefixed. / [line] / Communiter bona profundere Deûm est. / [line] / PHILADELPHIA: / Printed by JOSEPH CRUKSHANK, in Second-street. / M, DCC, LXX.

Collation: A-Q4(QQ)4R-Tt4Uu4-2, (QQ)4 blank; titlepage, verso blank; Account of Library, pp. 3-8; List of Members, pp. 9-13, blank, p. [14]; Charter, pp. 15-20; Laws, pp. 21-33, blank, p. [34]; Rules, pp. 35-38; Catalogue, 318 pp. without pagination.

Copies: DLC, MWA, NHi, NN, Njp(-), PHi (2 copies), PP, PPAMP, PPL (3 copies), PU (-), RPJCB.

6. THE/SECOND PART/OF THE/CATALOGUE/OF/BOOKS,
/OF THE/LIBRARY COMPANY/OF/PHILADELPHIA./
[line]/Communiter bona profundere Deûm est./[line]/
PHILADELPHIA:/PRINTED BY R. AITKEN, BOOKSELLER,
OPPOSITE/THE LONDON COFFEE-HOUSE, FRONT-STREET./
M,DCC,LXXV.

Collation: A-H⁴I²; title-page, verso blank; Rules, pp. [3]-5; Catalogue, pp. [6]-67, blank, p. [68].

Copies: NN, PHi, PPL, RPJCB.



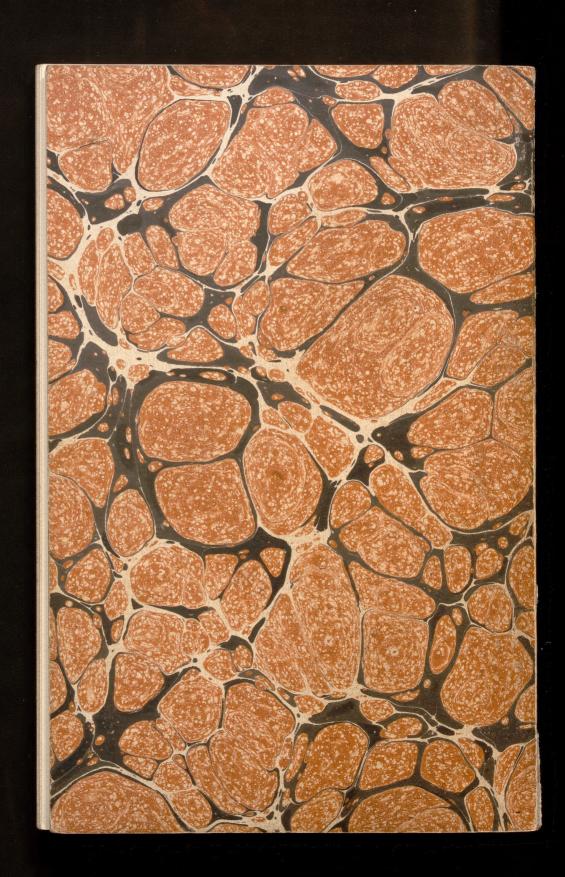
This facsimile was made from the copy of the 1741 catalogue in the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia. One thousand copies were printed on Curtis Rag paper by WILLIAM F. FELL CO. of Philadelphia, using Monotype

Caslon No. 337 for the Introduction and Note.











January 17, 1956 marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, the founder of The Library Company of Philadelphia. This keepsake is issued by the Library Company as its tribute to the memory of Franklin. It is being sent to its shareholders and friends to remind them that Franklin built the foundation of his many-sided career on books; he wrote them, printed them, sold them, and as founder, director, secretary and librarian of the Library Company made them available to others for their common use and for the benefit of the society in which he lived.

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